

Claims

1. A skincare composition suitable for topical application to the skin, the  
5 composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein.
2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises salicylic acid.
- 10 3. A composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is at least 0.01% by weight, more preferably at least 0.1% by weight and most preferably at least 1% by weight.
4. A composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the concentration of  
15 salicylic acid is less than 10% by weight, more preferably less than 5% by weight, and most preferably less than 3% by weight.
5. A composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is in the range from 0.01% to 10% by weight, more preferably  
20 from 0.1% to 5% by weight, and most preferably from 1% to 3% by weight.
6. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the concentration of hydrolysed milk protein is at least 0.01% by weight, more preferably at least 0.05% by weight, and most preferably at least 0.1% by weight.  
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7. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the concentration of hydrolysed milk protein is less than 10% by weight, more preferably less than 3% by weight, and most preferably less than 1% by weight.
- 30 8. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the concentration of hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 0.01% to 10% by weight, more

preferably from 0.05% to 3% by weight, and most preferably from 0.1% to 1.0% by weight.

9. A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of  
5 salicylic acid is in the range from 0.5 to 4% by weight, more preferably from 0.5 to 2% by weight and the concentration of hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 0.08 to 2%, more preferably from 0.1 to 0.5 % by weight.

10. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the ratio of  
10 salicylic acid or salt thereof to hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 1:1 to 20:1 parts by weight, more preferably from 2:1 to 15:1 parts by weight, most preferably from 5:1 to 12:1 parts by weight.

11. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the pH of  
15 the composition is in the range from 2.3 to 7.0, more preferably from 2.5 to 6.0.

12. A composition as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the pH is in the range  
from 2.5 to 4.0.

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13. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising one or more further topically active skincare agents selected from an anti-microbial or anti-bacterial compound, an anti-viral compound, an anti-fungal compound, an anti-inflammatory compound and an anthelmintic compound.

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14. A composition as claimed in claim 13 wherein the anti-bacterial agent is a peroxide anti-bacterial agent.

15. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which has the form of  
30 an aqueous or oily solution or dispersion or emulsion or a gel.

16. A composition as claimed in Claim 15, which is in the form of an emulsion.
- 5 17. A composition as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the emulsion is an oil-in-water emulsion.
18. A composition as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the emulsion is a water-in-oil emulsion.
- 10 19. A composition as claimed in claim 15, which is in the form of an aqueous gel.
20. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which further  
15 comprises a gelling and/or a thickening agent.
21. A composition as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the gelling agent is a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof.
- 20 22. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises an aqueous solvent system.
23. A composition as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the solvent system is a mixed solvent system comprising water in admixture with a co-solvent.
- 25 24. A composition as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the co-solvent is an alcohol.
25. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises one  
30 or more excipients selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers,

emollients, lipids, humectants or moisturisers, binders, conditioning agents, emulsion stabilising salts, preservatives, chelating agents or sequestering agents, abrasives, pH adjusters, surfactants, perfumes and colourings.

- 5 26. An article comprising a fibrous substrate impregnated with a skincare composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein.
27. An article as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fibrous material is  
10 impregnated with the skincare composition in an amount in the range from 10 to 30% by weight, preferably from 15 to 25% by weight and most preferably from 18 to 22% by weight of the fibrous material.
28. An article as claimed in either one of claims 26 or 27 comprising  
15 cellulose or cotton fibres or a mixture thereof.
29. A method for the prophylactic or remedial treatment of acne, which method comprises the topical application to the skin of a patient of a skincare composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk  
20 protein.
30. A method as claimed in Claim 29, which is a cosmetic method.
31. A method as claimed in Claim 29, which is a therapeutic method.  
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32. The use of salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein in a composition for the prophylactic or remedial treatment of acne by topical application of the composition to the skin.

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33. The use as claimed in claim 32 wherein salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein are the sole active ingredients in the composition.

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